

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mr. BROWN of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Prince George's County Public Schools for achieving a record high school graduation rate. Prince George's schools are living up to their motto of being Great By Choice.

Eight schools have met the goal of graduating 90 percent of seniors within 4 years, including three schools in the Fourth Congressional District: Charles Herbert Flowers High School, DuVal High School, and the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College.

Many schools in the Fourth District, including Suitland, Potomac, and Forestville high schools have demonstrated real progress, with graduation rate gains of more than 4 percentage points.

Mr. Speaker, these gains have been made possible by the incredible dedication of educators and parents who are focused on policies that improve student success like expanding mentoring programs, effectively using data to target student needs, and emphasizing core reading and math skills.

Mr. Speaker, we must prepare students for successful lives and careers once they graduate from high school. That is why I am committed to working during this Congress to ensure every student has access to rigorous, relevant, and results-driven career technology education programs to equip them with the skills to succeed in the 21st century.

STRANGER THINGS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, like the main characters in "Stranger Things," we are now stuck in the "Upside Down." Right is wrong. Up is down. Black is white.

The White House deceives the American public for weeks about their contacts with Russia, but an Attorney General who followed her conscience is fired.

Executive orders are signed to ban Muslims in order to keep us safe, while top secret national security conversations are held out in the open.

President Trump showers praise on a thug like Vladimir Putin, while threatening and bullying our longstanding allies.

President Trump signs an executive order to spend \$20 billion on a border wall, while Flint, Michigan, still goes without clean drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, mornings might be for coffee and contemplation, but Chief Jim Hopper is not coming to rescue us. This is not a TV show. This is real life.

We have a President unlike any we have ever known. And like Mike, Dustin, Lucas, and Eleven, we must remain focused on the task at hand and hold this administration accountable so we can escape from our own version of the "Upside Down."

INTEGRITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is known for many things. It is known for its integrity, its honesty, and its high moral compass.

We are well aware that the United States intelligence community is united in its assessment that Russia attacked our Nation in 2016, and interfered in our elections. In response, President Obama imposed sanctions on the Russian Government and personnel entities, including intelligence services. He also expelled dozens of Russian officials from the United States. Now, we know that General Flynn, in violation of many laws, intruded and discussed these issues with the Russian Ambassador.

His departure does not end this investigation. Who knew what, when? When did the President know it? The integrity of this country is higher and more superior than one individual.

Why, when other Presidents have used Camp David and the White House for international diplomacy most often, did we have, over the past weekend, the embarrassment of international and national security issues, and personnel being filmed in an ordinary restaurant owned by the President?

Finally, let me say, with the many hundreds of thousands of DACA children who need relief, the question is: Can the President attend to serious business fighting for these young people and saving lives?

WE DESERVE TO KNOW

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, we live in a dangerous world, and the President needs a National Security Adviser who isn't under a cloud of suspicion. But this resignation isn't the end. Americans now deserve to know if General Flynn was operating under anyone else's authority.

The American people deserve to know if Russia has financial, personal, or political grip on President Trump or his campaign. I am urging the agencies involved in the investigation to continue their important work vigorously.

I also ask my colleagues in House leadership to launch a bipartisan, independent congressional investigation into Russia's influence on the election and the new administration.

Lastly, I once again am calling on President Trump to remove his cheap political strategist, Steve Bannon, from the National Security Council and reinstate the Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to restore some semblance of respectability to the organization's structure.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER) laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 16, 2017.

Speaker PAUL RYAN,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: Due to my election to the Committee on Ways and Means, this letter is to inform you that I resign my seats on the House Judiciary committee and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. BISHOP.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 131

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Smith of Missouri, to rank immediately after Mr. Johnson of Ohio.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Russell, to rank immediately after Mr. Grothman.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Bishop of Michigan.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF FINAL RULE OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 123, I